

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

Summary of Amendments

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-10 are cancelled and claims 11-30 are added, whereby claims 11-30 will be pending, with claims 11, 26 and 29 being independent claims.

Support for the new claims can be found throughout the present specification (see, e.g., pages 8, 9, 13, 18, 20, 23 and 26) and the cancelled claims.

Applicants emphasize that the cancellation of claims 1-10 is without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute these claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

Summary of Office Action

As an initial matter, Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed October 7, 2005 by returning a signed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted therein. Applicants further note with appreciation that the present Office Action acknowledges the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

Claims 7-10 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 4-6 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c).

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by McAttee et al., US 2002/0009484 (hereafter "McATEE").

Response to Office Action

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections of record are respectfully requested, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to Objection to Claims

Claims 4-6 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claims shall not serve as a basis for any other multiple dependent claim.

Applicants note that claims 4-6 are cancelled, whereby this objection is moot.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, i.e., all claims under consideration, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by McATEE. The rejection relies specifically on paragraphs [0029], [0033], [0060] and [0116] of McATEE.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner in this regard. At any rate, the rejected claims are cancelled, wherefore this rejection is moot.

It further is not seen that McATEE teaches or suggests any of the subject matter of the claims submitted herewith. In particular, the only mentioning of salts of fatty acids appears to be in paragraph [0116] of McATEE. This passage mentions salts of fatty acids without mentioning any specific fatty acid and merely as “[o]ther anionic materials useful herein”. Other indications that salts of fatty acids are not considered particularly well suited for the purposes of the invention of McATEE are the fact that these salts are not included in the long list of preferred anionic lathering surfactants set forth in paragraph

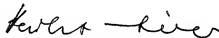
[0122] of McATEE (let alone in the list of especially preferred anionic surfactants in paragraph [0123] thereof or the long list of preferred lathering surfactants in paragraph [0148] thereof) and the fact that in none of the numerous exemplified compositions of McATEE any salts of fatty acids are employed. Accordingly, there is no apparent reason for one of ordinary skill in the art to use salts of fatty acids comprising from 8 to 20 carbon atoms per molecule in combination with one or more surfactants for the cleansing articles of McATEE.

Applicants submit that for at least all of the foregoing reasons, the subject matter of the claims submitted herewith is not only new but also unobvious over the disclosure of McATEE.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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April 7, 2009
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